

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

10 February 2003

B5-0132/2003

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Elly Plooij-van Gorsel and Nicholas Clegg

on behalf of the ELDR Group

on the crisis in the steel sector and the measures to be taken at Community level

European Parliament resolution on the crisis in the steel sector and the measures to be taken at Community level

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Lisbon European Council conclusions of 23 and 24 March 2000, the Göteborg European Council conclusions of 15 and 16 June 2001, the Barcelona European Council of 15 and 16 March 2002, and the conclusions of 16 September 2002 on the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,
 - having regard to Article 2 of the EC Treaty, and in particular Article 136 thereof, which stipulates that the objectives of the Member States shall include the promotion of employment, improved living and working conditions, proper social protection and dialogue between management and labour with a view to lasting high employment and the combating of exclusion,
 - having regard to the recent loss of jobs in the steel sector,
- A. whereas the European Union must enhance its competitiveness and hence rise to the challenge of global competition,
- B. whereas the disappointing economic performance of the European economy in 2002 makes it more imperative than ever to complete the Lisbon agenda; whereas this situation is exacerbated by the challenge of enlargement and the uncertainties in the international political and economic climate,
- C. whereas the EU steel industry suffered from the US decision to impose extraordinary tariffs on steel imports, mainly from the EU,
1. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to adopt a more proactive approach to industrial restructuring and its social consequences, while avoiding any harmful impact on the level of competitiveness of Community industry;
 2. Stresses the need to develop the capacity to predict the social consequences of such industrial restructuring and the social and economic impact on industrial concerns themselves, and believes that the European Monitoring Centre on Industrial Change, which the European Council in Nice agreed to set up, is best placed to carry out the research necessary in all Member States;
 3. Calls on the Commission to verify, whenever necessary, that Member States apply Council Directive 98/59/EC on collective redundancies and Council Directive 94/45/EC on the establishment of a European Works Council or a procedure for informing and consulting employees;
 4. Calls on the Commission to advance multilateral discussions in the OECD to tackle the problem of over-production in the steel sector;

5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Member States and the OECD.